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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

CODEC CIRCUIT HAVING A PROGRAMMABLE DIGITAL BANDPASS
FILTER

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a codec circuit having a programmable digital bandpass filter for matching the filter characteristics of the codec circuit to a transmitted PCM signal.

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Description of Related Art

US-A-5,212,817 discloses a programmable digital bandpass filter for a codec circuit for adaptation of the filter characteristics, in which case the setting filter coefficients can be set by changing the bandpass filter characteristic of the programmable digital bandpass filter.

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A codec circuit is a circuit which intrinsically combines the functions of a coding switching device and a decoding switching device. When transmitting information, information is in many cases transmitted in both directions between two connections. In this situation, the codec circuit would carry out PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) signal coding in the transmission direction and PCM signal decoding in the reception direction.

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In practice, codec circuits are normally in the form of digital signal processors (DSP), which are highly specialized, but nevertheless standardized, integrated circuits produced in large quantities for high-speed processing of a narrowly constrained set of input signals in real time. Digital signal processors such as these are typically used for data transmission by means of modems. A modem is a terminal which modulates outgoing signals and demodulates received signals.

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For signal transmission of voice signals, the filter characteristics of the codec circuit have to comply with specific, predetermined specifications. There are no such specifications for the filter characteristics for signal
5 transmission of modem signals.

Since the transmission rate of modems is directly proportional to the transmission frequency bandwidth, the data transmission rate increases with increasing frequency bandwidth of the digital filters integrated in the
10 codec circuit. The digital filters which have been used in known codec circuits until now have filter characteristics matched to the specifications which exist for transmission of voice signals, and are not programmable. It is thus impossible when using such digital filters for codec circuits according to the prior art to widen the filter bandwidth, or to reset it, for data
15 transmission when modem signals are being transmitted from a first modem to a second modem instead of the normal voice signals which originate, for example, from a telephone.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 The object of the present invention is thus to provide a codec circuit, in which the data transmission frequency range can be matched to the transmitted PCM signal.

According to the invention, this object is achieved by a programmable
25 digital bandpass filter having the features specified in patent claim 1.

Further advantageous refinements are specified in the dependent claims. The invention is in this case based on the idea of providing the programmable digital bandpass filter in addition to the digital filters with

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fixed settings in the codec circuit, in order that the filter bandwidth, and hence the data transmission rate, can be matched to the transmitted PCM signal.

- 5 In one advantageous refinement of the codec circuit according to the invention, the setting filter coefficients can be stored in coefficient memory devices, which are associated with the digital high-pass filter and the digital low-pass filter.
- 10 This offers the particular advantage that the coefficients of the digital filters can be matched to or reprogrammed for technical requirements of the transmission channel and to and for the transmitted PCM signal at any time.
- 15 In a further advantageous refinement, the memory devices are random access memories (RAMs).

The memory devices are preferably connected via coefficient setting lines to a signal identification device for identification of the PCM signal

20 transmitted through the codec circuit.

This offers the particular advantage that the setting of the setting filter coefficients, and hence the matching of the filter characteristics of the codec circuit to the transmitted PCM signal, can be carried out

25 automatically by identifying the nature of the transmitted PCM signal, without any need for manual programming for each specific case. The programmable digital filters are preferably seventh-order filters.

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In one preferred embodiment, the upper and the lower signal transmission cut-off frequencies for the digital bandpass filter and the gradient of the bandpass filter flanks can be set separately by means of the setting filter coefficients.

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This offers the particular advantage that the two signal transmission cut-off frequencies of the bandpass filter can be set independently of one another. Furthermore, the gradient of the bandpass filter flanks can be programmed in accordance with the requirements for the transmission channel.

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The lower signal transmission cut-off frequency of the bandpass filter can preferably be set by setting the setting filter coefficients of the digital high-pass filter.

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The upper signal transmission cut-off frequency of the bandpass filter can preferably be set by setting the setting filter coefficients of the digital low-pass filter. In one preferred embodiment, a frequency response correction filter is also connected in series with the digital low-pass filter and the digital high-pass filter in order to compensate for the ripple in the frequency passband of the bandpass filter.

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This offers the particular advantage that the transmitted PCM signal is filtered uniformly, independently of the frequency, throughout the frequency passband of the bandpass filter.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

One preferred embodiment of a codec circuit is described in the following text, in order to explain the features that are essential to the invention, with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

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- Figure 1 shows a codec circuit, in which programmable digital bandpass filters according to the invention are used both in the transmission signal path and in the reception signal path of the codec circuit;
- Figure 2 shows a block diagram of the codec circuit according to the invention;
- Figure 3 shows a typical filter characteristic of a codec circuit as a function of the filters that are used in the transmission signal path of the codec circuit;
- Figure 4 shows a filter transmission characteristic of a codec circuit in the region of the lower cut-off frequency for various filter coefficient settings;
- Figure 5 shows a filter transmission characteristic of a codec circuit in the region of the upper cut-off frequency.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of a codec circuit, in which a transmission signal is PCM-coded and a received PCM signal is decoded. The codec circuit has a transmission signal path and a reception signal path for this purpose.

The analog input filter is preferably an analog high-pass filter for outputting alternating signals. On the output side, the analog input filter 2 is connected via a line 3 to an analog/digital converter 4. The analog/digital converter 4

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- samples the filtered analog signal supplied to it via the line 3, and produces a digital output signal, which is passed via the line 5 to the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention. The digital bandpass filter 6 has a bandpass filter characteristic and filters the digital signal applied on the line 5 such that only signals in the frequency passband of the bandpass filter are passed via a line 7 to a digital high-pass filter 8. The digital high-pass filter has a high-pass filter characteristic which is permanently set and cannot be varied.
- 10 On the output side, the digital high-pass filter 8 is connected via a line 9 to a frequency response correction filter 10. The frequency response correction filter 10 compensates for ripple in the passband of the bandpass filter characteristic.
- 15 The transmission signal path in the codec circuit is formed, as is shown in Figure 1, by the analog input filter 2, the analog/digital converter 4, the programmable digital bandpass filter 6, the digital high-pass filter 8, whose setting is fixed, and by the frequency response correction filter 10. In this case, the analog input filter 2 and the digital high-pass filter 8, whose setting is fixed, can be connected via control lines 11, 12 to the transmission signal path of the codec circuit. If the input filter 2 is switched off via the control line 11, the signal which is applied on the input line 1 is passed directly, without being filtered, to the input of the analog/digital converter 4. If the digital high-pass filter 8 is switched off via the control line 12, the output signal from the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 is passed directly to the frequency response correction filter 10.
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The reception signal path of the codec circuit illustrated in Figure 1 likewise has a frequency response correction filter 13, whose input side is

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connected to a receiving line 14. The design of the frequency response correction filter 13 is similar to that of the frequency response correction filter 10. According to the invention, a line 15 connects a programmable digital bandpass filter 6 which is connected in the reception signal path of the codec circuit, to the frequency response connection filter 13. The output signal, having been filtered by the programmable digital bandpass filter 6, is supplied via a line 16 to a digital/analog converter 17, which converts the received digital signal to an analog signal, and preferably emits this signal via a line 18 to an analog output filter 19. In one preferred embodiment, the analog output filter 19 can be connected to the reception signal path of the codec circuit, via a control line 20. The output signal from the output filter 19 is emitted via an output line 21 to, for example, an SLIC circuit, which is not illustrated.

The two programmable digital bandpass filters in the codec circuit for matching the filter characteristics of the codec circuit to the PCM signal transmitted in the transmission signal path or the reception signal path can be controlled by a signal identification device 24, via control lines 22, 23, in the preferred embodiment illustrated in Figure 1.

The signal identification device 24 identifies the PCM signal transmitted through the codec circuit. The signal identification device 24 is connected via detection lines (which are not illustrated) to the transmission signal path and/or to the reception signal path of the codec circuit. An evaluation circuit, which is integrated in the signal identification device 24, is used to evaluate and to identify the PCM signal in the transmission signal path or the reception signal path. The evaluation circuit identifies the type of modulation and the transmission speed such that, firstly, it is possible to determine whether the transmitted PCM signal originates from a terminal,

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for example a modem, or from a telephone for voice transmission. Furthermore, the evaluation circuit identifies the type of transmitting or receiving modem. For example, the evaluation circuit identifies whether the transmitting modem is a V.90 modem or a V.34 modem. The signal
5 identification device 24 sets the optimum digital filter coefficients for the digital bandpass filters, via the control lines 22, 23, to match the identified modem. In this case, the filter coefficients are preferably set automatically.

Figure 2 shows the programmable digital bandpass filter, as illustrated in
10 Figure 1, according to the invention, in detail.

The programmable digital bandpass filter 6 has an input connection 25, an output connection 26 and a control or setting connection 27. The control connection 27 is connected via a control line 22 or 23 to the signal
15 identification device 24 shown in Figure 1. The input connection 25 is connected via an internal input line 28 to a programmable digital high-pass filter 29. The programmable digital high-pass filter 29 is connected in series with a programmable digital low-pass filter 34 via a line 30. The setting filter coefficients of the programmable digital high-pass filter 29 can be stored in
20 an associated memory device 32. The setting filter coefficients of the programmable digital low-pass filter 31 can be stored in an associated memory device 33. The memory devices 32, 33 are preferably random access memories (RAMs). The setting filter coefficients stored there can be reprogrammed by the signal identification device 24. To do this, the
25 memory devices 32, 33 are connected to the control connection 27 via internal memory setting lines 34, 35, 36.

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The programmable digital low-pass filter 31 is connected on the output side via an internal output line 37 to the output connection 26 of the programmable digital bandpass filter 6.

5 In the embodiment shown in Figure 2, the programmable digital low-pass filter 31 is connected downstream from the programmable digital high-pass filter 29. In an alternative embodiment, the programmable digital high-pass filter 29 is connected downstream from the programmable digital low-pass filter 31.

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In further embodiments of the programmable digital bandpass filter according to the invention, a large number of programmable digital high-pass filters 29 and a large number of programmable digital low-pass filters 31 can be connected in series. The programmable digital low-pass
15 filters 31 may in this case at the same time be in the form of interpolation and decimation filters.

In one preferred embodiment of the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention, the programmable digital filters 29, 31 are
20 seventh-order filters.

The setting filter coefficients which can be stored in the memory devices 32, 33 set the filter characteristics of the digital filters 29, 31 via lines 38, 39.

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A bandpass filter characteristic is achieved by connecting the programmable digital high-pass filter 29 and a programmable digital low-pass filter 31 in series. The setting coefficients in this case make it possible to set the upper and the lower signal transmission cut-off

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frequencies of the digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention and the gradient of the bandpass filter flanks independently of one another. However, the programmable digital bandpass filter according to the invention can be set in a flexible manner to satisfy the individual
5 requirements of the transmission channel and the type of modem being used.

In this case, the lower cut-off frequency of the bandpass filter characteristic can be set by setting the setting filter coefficients of the digital high-pass
10 filter 29, and the upper signal transmission cut-off frequency of the bandpass filter characteristic can be set by setting the setting filter coefficients of the digital low-pass filter 31.

In one preferred embodiment, the frequency response correction filters 10,
15 13, as are shown in Figure 1, are integrated in the programmable digital bandpass filter 6, with the compensation for the ripple in the bandpass filter characteristic being carried out automatically as a function of the filter coefficient settings.

20 Figure 3 shows the frequency response characteristic of the codec circuit shown in Figure 1, in the region of the lower cut-off frequency. As can be seen from Figure 3, the lower cut-off frequency occurs at about 100 to 200 Hz.

25 The filter transmission curve a shows a filter characteristic of the codec circuit when only the input filter 2 is switched on, corresponding to the switch-on control signal supplied via the control line 11. The filter transmission curve b shows the situation when the digital high-pass filter 8, whose setting is fixed, is also connected in the transmission signal path of

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the codec circuit, by means of a control signal on the control line 12. Finally, the filter transmission curve c shows the situation in which the programmable digital high-pass filter 29 in the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention is also connected in the transmission signal path of the codec circuit. The digital programmable bandpass filter 6 is preferably connected in the signal transmission path automatically by the signal identification device 24 on identifying a corresponding PCM signal via a separate control line.

As can be seen from Figure 3, the lower cut-off frequency of the codec circuit is increased by the addition of the digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention, and occurs at about 200 Hz. The lower cut-off frequency of the codec circuit can thus be set individually as a function of the transmitted PCM signal. In the example shown in Figure 3, the cut-off frequency is set in the range from 50 Hz to 200 Hz.

Figure 4 shows the filter transmission characteristic of the codec circuit shown in Figure 1 when the various high-pass filters are added, that is to say the analog input filter 2, the digital programmable high-pass filter 29 within the digital programmable bandpass filter, and the fixed digital high-pass filter 8. In this case, in contrast to Figure 3, Figure 4 also shows the filter characteristic being changed as a function of the filter coefficient. As can be seen from Figure 4, not only is the lower signal transmission cut-off frequency of the codec circuit but also the gradient of the lower bandpass filter flank, as well. This allows fine adjustment of the codec circuit.

Figure 5 shows the filter transmission characteristic of the digital programmable low-pass filter 31 within the programmable digital bandpass

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filter 6. As can be seen from Figure 5, switching the digital programmable low-pass filter 31 to different filter coefficients reduces the upper cut-off frequency.

- 5 As can be seen from Figures 3 to 5, the addition of the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 reduces the frequency passband, since the lower cut-off frequency is increased and the upper cut-off frequency is decreased. Conversely, the frequency passband is widened, and the data transmission rate thus increased, by changing the coefficients of the
- 10 programmable digital bandpass filter 6.

The filter transmission characteristic can be programmed differently in the transmission signal path and in the reception signal path of the codec circuit. For example, if a V.90 modem is used, the transmission direction

15 can be matched to V.34 modem transmission by means of a higher upper cut-off frequency in the digital programmable high-pass filter 29 in the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 connected in the reception signal path, while the full frequency bandwidth is available in the reception direction. Use of the programmable digital bandpass filter 6 according to

20 the invention within the codec circuit makes it possible to utilize the frequency range as far as possible, particularly for terminals and modems. The programmable digital bandpass filter 6 according to the invention furthermore offers the capability to program the cut-off frequencies independently of one another.

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It is thus possible firstly to satisfy the predetermined specifications for voice transmission, and secondly to achieve optimum utilization of the frequency range for modem signal transmissions.